

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA  
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO(S). 954/2017

PRAFUL GHUGUSKAR

APPELLANT(S)

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA & ANR.

RESPONDENT(S)

O R D E R

1. We have heard the learned counsel appearing for the appellant and learned counsel for the respondent, as well as the learned Amicus Curaie.
2. The High Court has rendered an order of acquittal by disbelieving the evidence of PW-6 and 7 as being unnatural and therefore, their presence at the place of occurrence has been projected by the prosecution as doubtful. Considering that the said view is a plausible one, we are not inclined to differ with the same. While considering an order of acquittal, this Court is not expected to replace its view. An order of acquittal creates a double presumption which otherwise can be drawn in favour of the accused.
3. In such view of the matter, we are not inclined to interfere with the impugned judgment.
4. The appeal is dismissed accordingly.

5. We place on record our appreciation for able assistance rendered by the learned Amicus Curiae.
6. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

.....J.  
[M.M. SUNDRESH]

.....J.  
[AUGUSTINE GEORGE MASIH]

NEW DELHI;  
31<sup>st</sup> JULY, 2025

ITEM NO.112

COURT NO.5

SECTION II-A

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A  
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Criminal Appeal No(s). 954/2017

PRAFUL GHUGUSKAR

Appellant(s)

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA &amp; ANR.

Respondent(s)

ORIGINAL RECORD RECEIVED

Date : 31-07-2025 This appeal was called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE M.M. SUNDRESH  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AUGUSTINE GEORGE MASIH

For Appellant(s) Mr. Satyajit A. Desai, Adv.  
Mr. Anshuman Ashok, Adv.  
Ms. Anagha S. Desai, AOR  
Mr. Siddharth Gautam, Adv.  
Mr. Abhinav K. Mutyalwar, Adv.  
Mr. Sachin Singh, Adv.  
Mr. Ananya Thapliyal, Adv.  
Mr. Shubham Kumar Singh, Adv.

For Respondent(s) Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, ASG (AC)  
Ms. Radhika Misra, Adv.  
Mr. Abhinav Agarwal, Adv.  
  
Mr. Varad Kilor, Adv.  
Mr. Siddharth Dharmadhikari, Adv.  
Mr. Aaditya Aniruddha Pande, AOR  
Mr. Shrirang B. Varma, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following  
O R D E R

The appeal is dismissed in terms of the signed order.

Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

(SWETA BALODI)  
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(POONAM VAID)  
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

(Signed order is placed on the file)